

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7023

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 239

E.O. 11652: GSD

TAGS: PINS, NG

SUBJECT: END TO STUDENT STRIKE ANNOUNCED

REF: NIAMEY 3492

1. IN MEETING JANUARY 22 OF POLITICAL BUREAU OF PARTI PROGRESSISTE NIGERIEN (PPN), WHICH HAS GATHERED TOGETHER MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT AND PARTY TO PREPARE THE FIRST PARTY CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 1974, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY AND PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BOUBOU HAMA, ANNOUNCED A SETTLEMENT OF THE STUDENT STRIKE. THE CHAIRMAN REVEALED THAT STUDENTS AT NATIONAL LYCEE HAD DECIDED TO RETURN TO CLASS JANUARY 23 AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH A DELEGATION FROM CONFERENCE AND SUBSEQUENT COMPROMISE.

2. COMPROMISE PROVIDES THAT PRESENT MONTHLY STIPEND OF 3,000 FRANCS CFA (12 DOS US) WILL BE AUGMENTED BY 2,000 FRANCS CFA (8 DOLS US) PCKET MONEY AND THAT STUDENTS IN URBAN CENTERS WILL BE GIVEN ADEQUATE LODGING FACILITIES. WHETHER RELEASE OF STUDENTS WHO ARRESTED DURING PAST THREE MONTHS IS PART OF COMPROMISE WORKED OUT YESTERDAY IS NOT YET CERTAIN. IN EARLIER APPEAL TO STUDENTS TO END STRIKE, GON INSISTED THAT STUDENTS HAD TO RETURN TO CLASSES BEFORE ANY OF THEIR COLLEAGUES WOULD BE RELEASED.

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3. PRESIDENT DIORI, WHO SEC GEN OF PPN, EXPRESSED HOPE IN

YESTERDAY'S MEETING THAT DEIALOGUE BETWEEN STUDENTS AND AUTHORITIES
WOULD CONTINUE AND THAT SECTIONS OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION
WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN EACH DEPARTMENT AND DISTRICT TO FURTHER
THIS END. HE SAID THAT AS LONG AS THE STUDENTS RAISED
LEGITIMATE EDUCATIONAL GRIEVANCES, THE GON WOULD BE WILLING
TO FIND SOLUTIONS. BUT IF THEY INSISTED ON RAISING POLITICAL
ISSUES THE GON AND PARTY WOULD FIGHT THEM AS POLITICAL ENEMIES.

4. NATIONAL LYCEE STUDENTS' (WHO ALONG WITH STUDENTS O
ECOLE NORMALE IN TILLABERI WERE ONLY ONES STILL ON STRIKE)
DECISION TO RETURN TO CLASS AFTER THREE-MONTH BOYCOTT
ENDS LATEST SKIRMISH IN ON-GOING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN STUDENTS
AND GON.
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